

He is not as big a man intellectually as Webster, but he is a far better man morally; and the type of citizenship which he represents is from the standpoint of the United States better than either of theirs."

On the question of his own popularity, Eoosevelt wrote as follows, on March 1, to Sereno S. Pratt in New York:

"I have felt a slightly contemptuous amusement over the discussion that has been going on for several months about my popularity or waning popularity or absence of popularity. I am not a college freshman nor that would-be popular fox-hunting hero in 'Soapy Sponge,'<sup>7</sup> and therefore I am not concerned about my popularity save in exactly so far as it is an instrument which will help me to achieve my purposes. That is, in so far as my good reputation among the people helps me to secure the passage of the rate bill, I value it. In so far as it fails to help me secure the adoption of the Santo Domingo treaty, I do not value it. A couple of years ago or thereabouts, a good many timid souls told me that by my action in Panama I had ruined my popularity and was no longer available as a candidate; to which I answered that while I much wished to be a candidate and hoped that I had not ruined my popularity, yet if it was necessary to ruin it in order to secure to the United States the chance to build the Panama Canal, I should not hesitate a half second, and did not understand how any man could hesitate.

"" "It is surprising to me that Blank should not

see the real  
meaning of what he says about Washington  
when he speaks  
of his having become an object of dislike to the  
bulk of his  
fellow citizens at the end of his second term  
by refusing  
to side with France. Washington sacrificed a  
temporary  
popularity for the purpose of securing the  
permanent wel-  
fare of his country. I do not believe he was  
capable of  
being swayed in the matter by the  
consideration of his own  
permanent reputation as compared with the  
nation's permanent  
good. But in any event his permanent reputation  
stood higher